

February 14, 1975

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is the advancement of LB 122. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Question of Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Yes, Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator, you used the term qualified throughout here in referring to the quantity of qualified teachers. Are there any examinations, or any determinations made of actual teaching ability of teachers? Or when you say qualified are you simply saying that somewhere, from some college they did obtain a B.A. degree in something?

SENATOR STONEY: Yes, qualified by basis of degree only.

SENATOR MURPHY: So you might have some very qualified as far as capable teaching persons without such a degree.

SENATOR STONEY: That's very true.

SENATOR MURPHY: And it takes no recognition of that fact?

SENATOR STONEY: It does take recognition of that fact in that the bill has been amended so that teachers that do not have a baccalaureate degree will be granted an additional four years to obtain such a degree. I might provide you with these additional facts pertaining to class I, II, and class VI schools. There a total of 1510 teachers who can teach on a rural, elementary certificate at the present time. Of those, 1013 presently have degrees; 497, at present, have no degree, but of this 497, 324 have at least three years of college education. This then means that there are only 173 teachers in these class schools that have less than 3 years college education. I think providing them with the hardship clause, which the amendment does, this will give them sufficient time to obtain the additional education. I think we're talking about the children here. I think the children here in this state are entitled to receive proper schooling by those that are best qualified.

SENATOR MURPHY: Has there been any attempt to determine, in fact, the ability of teachers or of students who have been taught by these so called unqualified teachers as opposed to those taught by degree teachers?

SENATOR STONEY: I don't like the term unqualified teachers really. I think these teachers have done a magnifisant job and it's not the intent to shut these teachers out. As far as testing to see how the children have progressed with the teaching of a teacher having a baccalaureate vs. one without, I know of no such figure, Senator.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.